

Appl. No. : 10/060,907
Filed : January 29, 2002

COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 20, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Amendments To Specification Address Informalities

Applicant noted that the description on page 10 assigned the same reference numeral to different members. The amendment to the specification corrects this informality and brings the specification into accordance with the drawings (see Figure 5 in which the bolts are clearly labeled as "229"). Additionally, Applicant has corrected a couple of typographical errors noted in the same paragraph. These amendments do not add new matter. Entry of the amendment in the specification is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification for the Examiner's convenience. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made." Deleted text is bolded and bracketed (e.g., "[deletion]") and added text is underlined (e.g., "addition").

Claims 1-15 Have Been Canceled And New Claims 16-28 Have Been Added

Claims 1-15 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the grounds for the rejection, including the rejection based upon obviousness-type double patenting. Nevertheless, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant has added Claims 16-28. Claims 16-28 are fully supported by the written description and the figures, and no new matter has been added by this amendment. Applicant also

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believes that Claims 16-28 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the applied references.
Consideration of Claims 16-28 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

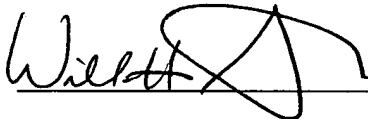
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney, William H. Shreve at (949) 721-2895 (direct line) in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 20, 2002

By: 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 31 on page 9 with the following revised paragraph:

Both of the cover members 214, 216 are mated with each other at the respective front ends. Each cover member 214, 216, as best seen in Figure 7, has an upper bolt hole 224 and a lower bolt hole 226, which are spaced generally vertically relative to each other. [At the] The front portion 210 of the driveshaft housing 108 also has a bolt hole 228. A pair of bolts 229 [226] are, then, inserted into the bolt holes 224, 226, 228 and tightened to connect together the cover members 214, 216 and to connect the front portion 210 of the driveshaft housing 108. When affixed as described above, lower ends 232 of the cover members 214, 216 are positioned lower than the top surface 211 of the driveshaft housing 108 so that the space 210s is generally closed.